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To His Excellency,

L. A. Sheldon

Governor of New Mexico

Sir:

As Librarian of the Territorial Library of this Territory I have deemed it proper to make a report to your Excellency, as President of the Board of Superintendents of the Territorial Library of the present condition of the Library, and also, at the time that I was in charge of the same.

I was appointed as Librarian by the Hon. W. G. Ritch, October 4th 1880. Secretary this a Acting Governor of New Mexico, to fill the vacancy made by the refusal of the former appointee to accept the position, and I immediately entered upon the discharge of my duties.

The room occupied for the Library is situated in the building known as the "Palace Building" and is on the west side of the passage way, opposite the rooms occupied for the Council Chamber and Legislative Hall, of the Territorial Legislature. At the time I took possession of the Library, there was no person in charge of the same as Librarian. I found the books piled up on some shelves and many of them upon the floor

without any order or arrangement, a perfect chaotic mass. I have been unable to find any Register or catalogue of the books belonging to the Library, as the law provides should be kept, consequently it has been impossible for me to ascertain what books or property belongs to the Library, except, as I have found them in the Library room. I have been unable to find any rules or instructions from the Board of Superintendents concerning the official duties of the librarian. I have been unable to find a single article of furniture belonging to the same, not a chair, desk or table of any kind, not even a stool or a box to sit upon.

For the present by the permission of the Secretary of the Territory, some of the desks and chairs belonging to the Legislative Hall, are being used in the Library room.

I have endeavored to arrange in some order the confused mass of books, the reports and laws of the different States and Territories have been classified, and the shelves where they were placed have been labeled with the the names of the States and Territories in Alphabetical order, text and other miscellaneous books have also been arranged under proper headings.

Many of the States and Territories are unrepre-

sented by either their reports or laws; all their sets of reports are broken and extremely incomplete, and the miscellaneous books are in the same condition.

There are in the Library innumerable numbers of Congressional, Committee Reports, State Legislature Journals that are so mingled, piled up in confused heaps without order or arrangement, that as yet, no attempt has been made to arrange or classify them; and little can be done with them, except to let them lie there and label them under the head of "Monuments of Legislative Folly".

In addition to the general incompleteness of the Library, the most glaring defect is, that there is not in the whole Library, a single book or history of any kind that pertains to the History of the Territory: there is not even a complete copy of its laws; there are a few pamphlets of its session laws, and some Legislative Journals: and persons desirous of learning any thing of the history of this Territory or its laws are compelled to go almost any where else than to its own Library to learn of them.

Shortly after my appointment as Librarian Gov Wm Wallace turned over to me as the Executive of them all that remains of the old Spanish and Mexican Archives, that he

had received from his [redacted]
Archives now consists of a confused mass
of old manuscripts and papers, tied
in bundles, without any order or classifi-
cation and covered with dust, worm-eaten
and in some instances half rotten away by
their exposure and total lack of any care
for their preservation.

To undertake to classify or arrange
this chaotic mass of manuscripts and lea
papers was too great a task for me to un-
dertake; because it would require month
of careful trial, and possibly years.

Many of these papers are two hundre
years old, and are are written in the ol
Spanish manuscript style, so quaint a
peculiar to itself, with its abreviations, tha
to one who has not given them a special
study, and familiarized himself with the
ancient manuscripts, it is almost im-
possible to decipher them.

Desirous of knowing what value
if any, there was to these ancient and time
worn records, I have spent many days and
months, carefully examining and deciphering
these old manuscripts covered as they are,
with the mold and dust of centuries: they
are rich in historical facts, that throw
floods of light upon the early history
of this territory; but aside from this

historical values, and the rich field they offer to the patient antiquarian they are of still greater value as the legal record of the official acts of the government officers, departmental Assemblies, both under the Spanish and Mexican governments from the years back down to the time this Territory was ceded to the United States. Many of them directly as well as indirectly are extremely valuable both to private citizens as well as the government in determining questions to titles of real estate in this Territory.

The criminal negligence in failing to preserve the ancient Archives is a matter of public notoriety, they have been treated as mere rubish, and have been the subject of almost every kind of vandalism and dislocation. Many valuable papers have been stolen from them by designing persons, others have been wantonly destroyed. No steps have been taken for their preservation. This negligence and wantonness in destroying these Archives will be a disgrace and a stigma for ages to come upon the memory of every one, who has been in any manner responsible for their loss.

The attention of both the Territorial Legislature and Congress should be called to these

[illegible] and the importance not only of preserving them, but of the classifying & arranging them, that their real value may be utilized.

The present condition of the Territorial Library is a disgrace to any intelligent or civilized people; it is a disgrace to the people of New Mexico and it would make their ears tingle with shame if they could hear the remarks and inquiries made by visitors from abroad: when they call at the Library. The rapid development and prosperity of this Territory by a pushing and energetic and intelligent people, demand that its government keep pace with it.

In view of all these facts, the Territorial Legislature, as soon as possible should pass such laws as may be necessary, and provide for placing the Territorial Library upon a respectable standing.

There is another matter that should be promptly investigated; it is evident from the broken sets of the reports of the different States, that they once were complete as well as the sets of the legal text books and that the missing volumes have either been taken or have been borrowed, and not returned. and it is probable that many of them are in this city, and the parties who hold them have had them so long that they regard them as their

own property.

The Board of Supervisors ought to take some decisive steps to secure the return of all the books belonging to the Library, and that rules should be made and enforced as to the taking of books, and the prompt return of them.

It is not at all surprising that heretofore so little care should have been given to the preservation of the property belonging to the Library, when the fact is known, that all the compensation allowed by law to the Librarian is One Hundred and fifty dollars per annum and thirty dollars per annum for wood &c; the whole compensation allowed by law for Salary, wood &c would not employ or remunerate a common laborer to sweep out and take care of the rooms.

The compensation is so small and so insignificant, that it cannot in reason be expected, that one can give time and attention to the care of the Library. This compensation was fixed under the provisions of what is known as the "Kearny Code" which was adopted at the time this Territory came in the possession and under the control of the United States, at that early day it was to be expected that they could

provide for the wants and needs of a rapidly increasing population.

I have made so far as practicable a Catalogue of the valuable books in the Library. and it is now possible to ascertain, what is necessary to complete the broken sets of reports &c

I would respectfully request that in your annual report to the Legislature (which report upon the condition of the Territorial Library is required by law) you call the attention of the Legislature to the pressing and imperative needs of the Library, which are.

First, The providing it with some kind of furniture, such as table, desk and chairs.

Second. To make an appropreation to complete the broken sets of reports &c.

Third. To provide for the preservation of the Old Spanish and Mexican Archives.

Fourth. To provide for a complete set of the Territorial laws, and some historical works pertaining to the history of this Territory.

Fifth. To make stringent laws for the preservation of the property of the Library and against those who appropreate it to their private use.

Sixth. To provide suitable compensation

for the care of the Library room and the property belonging thereto.

All of which statements and suggestions I herewith respectfully submit to your Excellency for consideration.

Yours respectfully
Saml. Ellison,
Territorial Librarian.